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ABSTRACT

This book examines caring from three perspectives. It opens with a discussion of Nel Noddings's caring tenets--caring is collaborative, situational, reciprocal, and committed--that are seen as necessary for an ethic of caring. A critique of an ethic of caring from the viewpoints of caring with leadership, caring as a "female ethic," caring for a collective, and caring as a cultural concept are then discussed. The critique of an ethic of caring calls into question the accepted ideas associated with caring. The subjects discussed are: (1) caring as a female ethic; (2) the downside of caring as connection and reciprocity; and (3) caring as cultural understanding. The case-study of a high school, and the town in which it is located, are presented, followed by an examination of the principal's role, as an African-American woman, in developing a climate conducive to caring. The chapters consider descriptions and examinations of the principal's, the collective faculty's, and specific faculty groups' perspectives on caring, and how those understandings relate to perceptions of power. The text concludes with the suggestion that there is an integral connection between caring and power and supports the view that power is necessary to caring. (Contains an index and approximately 135 references.) (RJM)

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